

Seedling Care

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry

Transport

Transport in a covered vehicle to prevent exposure to direct sunlight.

Place spacer sticks between layers of bags to promote air circulation.

Leave an air space between the top-most bag and the sun-cover of vehicle to prevent overheating.

Transport seedlings in the cool part of the day.

Park only in the shade.

Do not transport seedlings when the temperature exceeds 85 degrees, or is below 30 degrees.

Unload seedlings promptly upon arrival.

Inspect bags for tears. Patch holes and tears immediately with tape.

Storage

Seedlings are highly perishable. Protect them from overheating, freezing and drying

Store seedling packages in a cool shaded location where there is little fluctuation in temperature, such as: basement (away from furnace), crawl space under house, barn or shed, springhouse, cellar.

Place spacer sticks between packages to provide adequate ventilation; leave space between package and wall, floor or ceiling.

Do not open bags until ready to plant. Seedlings do not require watering so long as bag remains closed.

Bags NOT sealed at the top need to be watered every 2-3 days. Water using a trickle of water, then drain off excess.

Culling and Root Pruning

Open only one bag at a time.

Keep root exposure to an absolute minimum (less than one minute). Cover the roots with a moist cloth. Work with only a handful of seedlings at a time.

Discard all seedlings that have

- Sour smell
- Mold on needles or stem
- Root collar diameter of less than 1/8"
- Stems that are not stiff and woody
- No mature needles (needles do not occur in bundles)

Prune excessively long roots. Do not prune too much; roots must be at least 5" long.

Do not remove more than half of the lateral (side) roots.

Use a sharp instrument to prune with. Do not tear roots.

Keep roots visibly moist at all times.